

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

The Emancipation Commissioners.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF CARL SCHURZ.

STONE FORTIFICATIONS FOR DEFENSE.

THE OPERATIONS ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The Reported Resignation of Secretary Stanton.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, April 17, 1862.

THE EMANCIPATION COMMISSIONERS.

The Senate in executive session to-day referred the nominations of the three Commissioners under the Emancipation Bill to the Committee on the District of Columbia. Messrs. Goodloe and Vinton will be confirmed without doubt. It is thought that the Committee will report against ex-Mayor Berriett. But his friends urge his confirmation, on the ground that his appointment is due him in requital for what they consider his improper and illegal incarceration. They consider his disease typhoid.

ILLNESS OF CARL SCHURZ.

Gen. Carl Schurz is seriously ill; his physicians consider his disease typhoid.

NOMINATIONS.

Col. Steinwehr, commanding a brigade in Gen. Blenker's division, and Col. Carleton, now in command of a California regiment on the Pacific coast, were nominated Brigadier-Generals to-day.

AIR-LINE RAILROAD TO NEW-YORK.

The House Military Committee has had the subject of an air-line railroad from here to New-York under consideration, but as yet has come to no conclusion.

STONE FORTIFICATIONS.

It is said that the Military Commissions of both Houses are fully satisfied of the policy of making any further appropriations for stone fortifications, and it is believed that they will recommend the appointment of a Commission of Military and Naval officers to inquire into the whole subject, and decide upon the best means of coast defense.

UNION SENTIMENT AT TAPPANNOCK.

Officers of the Jacob Bell, whose recent voyage up the Rappahannock is narrated elsewhere, say that the people of Tappannock welcomed them, and warmly expressed the hope that the old flag would soon float over all Virginia. The reconnaissance up the Rappahannock shows that the Rebels are retreating from the line of that river. It is now believed that they are abandoning it, indeed, they have not done so already—Fredericksburg altogether.

LOYALTY IN TENNESSEE.

Emerson Etheridge says that in the rural districts of Tennessee, almost everywhere away from the large towns, loyalty is the rule and sympathy with the rebellion the exception.

CONSUL-GENERAL FOR INDIA.

Nathaniel P. Jacobs, of Detroit, recently appointed Consul-General for India, will sail for Calcutta in a few days.

THE REPORTED RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY STANTON.

Secretary Stanton said this morning, in response to a friendly inquiry, that the report of his resignation was utterly unfounded. The story has been widely circulated, and last evening was not discredited by Mr. Stanton's intimate personal friends.

GEN. STONE'S ARREST.

The Herald's statement that the arrest of Gen. Stone was caused exclusively by Senator Sumner is entirely untrue. Mr. Sumner, so far from having arrested Gen. Stone, was himself arrested, and was as surprised at it as any one in Washington, and knew as little of the grounds on which it was made.

THE POSITION OF FRANCE.

It is said that the Secretary of State some time since wrote to Minister Dayton to the effect that it was time for France, in view of the continued victories of the United States over the Rebels, to withdraw her countenance altogether from them, and give us proofs of her active sympathy with our resolution to continue to be a nation; and that Napoleon replied that, as Thucydides had charged of international relations, and was ill, the answer must wait for his recovery. Out of this correspondence a current sensational paragraph is believed to have sprung. There is certainly no firmer foundation for it.

NEWSPAPERS FOR REBEL STATES.

The Post-Office Department has received information that newspapers from nearly all the principal cities of the North and West, addressed to the Rebel States, and to offices, long since discontinued, are being sent in large numbers to the Post-Office at Nashville for distribution. These papers cannot be forwarded. They accumulate at that point to such an extent as to make it difficult to find room for them in the office. To relieve the Postmaster from the burden thus improperly imposed upon him, it has been necessary to instruct him to sell as waste paper, such as cannot be delivered or forwarded under the present postal arrangements.

FAIRBANKS AT LANCASTER.

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LETTER FROM MR. WALL.

My attention has been called to the following "appearing under your telegraphic head," in issue of yesterday, and dated Philadelphia: "A man is present in the city of Philadelphia, with a number of letters, intended to be sent to the Rebels, and is being held in a hole in the wall up to the Rebels' ears." The above statement is a sheer fabrication. I visited Philadelphia on Tuesday, to fulfill an engagement made on the Saturday previous. I did not even know of the distinguished presence of the ex-Secretary of War in Philadelphia, and was only made aware of it upon entering the Continental Hotel, by the number of police who appeared to be watching every movement. Upon inquiring the cause, I was told to my surprise that Simon Cameron was at the hotel; and, apprehensive of a personal attack from him, had thus protected "his" exit and his entrance. I was amused, however, the announcement was a manifestation that the ex-Secretary was beginning to have a rallying sense of the enormity of the wrong and outrage inflicted upon me. An awakened conscience first makes a coward of a man; but sometimes the very fear it provokes is the harbinger of a genuine repentance, that induces the awakened, frightened man to "go and sin no more." Let us all hope and pray that it may be so in this particular instance.

THE EX-Secretary, however, denies his fears of a personal chastisement, and his starved body-guard, the wrong he has inflicted upon me is of a character that an assault upon a gray-haired man like him will not remedy. The grave issue between himself and the man he has so fully wronged cannot be dragged down for settlement to the low arena of the bar-room of an hotel, or decided by a struggle to which blackguards only resort for a settlement of their difficulties. His own conduct, according to all

the rules, has placed him outside the pale, within whose limits gentlemen alone have their remedies for grievances of this high grade.

The final settlement, therefore, of this question must be left to the legal tribunals of the country, at the proper time. Therein, if the great principles of constitutional liberty are not a mockery, and our boasted freedom a sham, may yet be left a place of refuge for Liberty against despotism, the oppressed against the oppressor.

Yours, respectfully,
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Burlington, April 17, 1862.

MORE ABOUT THE TENNESSEE BATTLE.

From The Cincinnati Commercial, April 15.

We had yesterday the satisfaction of a conversation with Capt. J. T. Stockdale of the steamer Horizon, who was at Pittsburgh Landing when the battle commenced on Sunday morning, and was sent down to Savannah, with his boat, but returned next day. He saw much of the fight, and spent Tuesday and Wednesday in walking over the battle-ground. He had also a conversation with a wounded Rebel prisoner who was well known to him.

Capt. Stockdale walked over the battle-field for miles, and usually the Rebel dead were more numerous than ours. Only in a few places were our dead to be seen. The shelling of the Rebels by the gunboats had been very destructive. Several groups of six, eight, and ten, who were killed by the first big shell which landed among them killed nearly twenty, and it was impossible to force the men forward where the heavy shots from the boats were crashing. The Rebels were forced into the field where the enemy's dead were thick as where they encountered Lew. Wallace's division on Monday morning. There, standing on a stump, Capt. Stockdale counted sixty dead Rebels. There were several piles of nearly a dozen each. Everything indicated that the repulse of the enemy on Monday had been most deadly.

Capt. Stockdale had on his boat a wounded Rebel, who was an old acquaintance. His name was Patavien, and when Capt. Stockdale knew him, a few years ago, he was the chief clerk of P. L. Ayo & Co., doing business at No. 13 Conti street, New-Orleans. Patavien was a member of the New-Orleans Guard organization, a company which was of the Home Guard organization, but upon the news of Grant's movement up the Tennessee River, it was called into service for ninety days, twenty days of which term of service had expired when the battle was fought. Patavien stated that the attack was made with 65,000 men, with a reserve of 35,000, and that they were told that Van Dorn and Price were at Memphis with their whole army, and would be in Corinth at once. A large number of the Rebel dead were ninety-day men. They were forced into the river, and the Rebel advance from Corinth was commenced nine days before the attack was made. Patavien said he had been one day out from Corinth, and yet our folks were as careless as if they were a party of pic-nickers, and knew nothing of the enemy's advance. Patavien was shot through the thigh, and died on the way down the river.

BEAUREGARD'S SPEECH.

On the Commodore Perry, which went to Cincinnati with a load of wounded, was a Rebel Major (we did not learn his name), who had been wounded. He stated that before the fight Beauregard made a speech to his men to the following effect:

The engagement now before them was to be the decisive battle of this contest; if they lost it, all their hopes of success in the present war were gone. They had not had any pay, and if they failed in this battle, would not get any, for their money would not be worth a cent; if they gained a victory, each man should have \$1,000.

This promise it was, says the Major, which nerved the Rebel forces with such desperation and determination. But it was all of no avail, and they have fled not to be coaxed into another fight.

VISIT OF REBELS TO HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S STEAMER RINALDO.

From The Norfolk Daily News, April 15.

A party of gentlemen left this city on Saturday last, in the steamer S. S. Anderson, and proceeded down the river.

To the course of the day they went well over to the enemy's lines, in the direction of Newport News, and went alongside her Britannic Majesty's steamer Rinaldo.

The rebels were not permitted to go on board the Rinaldo, as her Britannic Majesty's gallant subjects informed them that they could hold no communication with us. (Query—Would they have said the same to a Yankee?) Her officers and crew, however, evinced great pleasure at the visit, and took their delight in the waving of hands and hats, and responding to the cheers given them by those on board the Anderson as they were about leaving.

After leaving her, our boys thought they had not sufficiently teased the Yankees, and in order to vex them as much as possible, they fired at the Rebels, and their delight in their teeth and courted shot, and drew her countenance altogether from them, and gave us proofs of her active sympathy with our resolution to continue to be a nation; and that Napoleon replied that, as Thucydides had charged of international relations, and was ill, the answer must wait for his recovery. Out of this correspondence a current sensational paragraph is believed to have sprung. There is certainly no firmer foundation for it.

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NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.—ALBANY, April 17, 1862.

The bill to prevent frauds in opening and laying out of streets and avenues in New-York, and the city tax levy, were reported favorably and ordered to the Committee of the Whole.

The following bills were ordered to a third reading:

To amend the law relative to the Supreme Court, First District.

Relative to rates of wharfage in New-York and Brooklyn.

To amend the charter of the Harlem Stage Ferry Company.

The Commissioners of the Canal Fund transmitted a communication relative to paying the State indebtedness in coin.

BILLS PASSED.

To regulate awnings, &c., in Brooklyn.

To increase the capital of the Harmony Fire and Marine Insurance Company.

To amend the charter of the Guardian Life Insurance Company.

Relative to Justices of the Police Courts, Brooklyn.

For the construction of the Troy and Cohoes Railroad.

Relative to the inspection of unsafe buildings in the City of New-York.

The bill to adapt the canals of the State to the defense of the northern and north-western lakes came up for a third reading.

Mr. FOLGER moved to recommit the bill with instructions to amend, leaving it optional with the Canal Board to either enlarge the locks of the Oswego Canal, or to build a new canal from the Clyde to Great Sodus Bay.

Messrs. HUTCHINSON and SANFORD opposed the motion.

Messrs. BAILEY and LOW supported the motion, which was carried by a vote of 15 to 10.

Mr. LOW offered a resolution that the Senate adjourn sine die on Saturday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. MINOR moved to suspend so much of the rules requiring bills to be considered in order, which stand on the calendar, to the end that he might move to make the Metropolitan Health bill the special order for to-morrow morning.

The question was debated until 1 o'clock, when the bill came up as the special order.

Mr. ABBOTT submitted a majority report, being the Assembly bill, with amendments, and Mr. MURPHY a minority report, being the Assembly bill without amendments. Made the special order for to-morrow, after the presentation of reports.

On motion of Mr. MURPHY, the majority bill was ordered to be printed.

The Senate non-concurred in the Assembly amendments to the Sewer-Milk bill. Laid on the table.

EVENING SESSION.

The following bills were ordered to a third reading:

Relative to companies organized to navigate Long Island Sound.

To authorize the American Guano Company to issue bonds.

To amend the act relative to Telegraph Companies.

To amend the law relative to firms and names of partners.

Relative to the fees of Associate Justices in criminal and civil cases.

To confirm Michael Brady's contract, New-York.

To reimburse certain expenses in raising and substituting volunteers.

ASSEMBLY.

Mr. WHEELER, by consent, made a minority report on the bill to authorize the investigation of the transactions of the State Military Board.

The report reviews thoroughly every transaction alluded to in the majority report, showing that no single one is susceptible of any serious condemnation. The only errors committed were those inseparable from the hasty organization of a vast system, in which all were inexperienced.

The report was ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENEDICT called up the question upon agreeing with the report of the Grinding Committee on the bill relating to Harbor Masters in New-York.

After a long debate, the bill was amended so as to secure the exclusive use of the canal, ships, and boats, without the interference of Harbor-Masters, and by striking out all qualifications for Harbor-Masters, and requiring nine of them to live in New-York during the term of office, and two in Brooklyn. The bill was then ordered to a third reading.

The Conference Committee on the General Appropriation bill reported that they had agreed to strike out the clause to abolish the office of State Appraiser, and concur in the other Senate amendments, except increasing the appropriation of the Institution for the Blind to \$38,000, and distributing the appropriation of the Orphan Asylum pro rata among all the Counties of the State.

In the latter item the House insisted in non-concurrence, and asked a further conference.

Mr. SEITSON reported the Senate Excise bill.

A long debate ensued on a motion to recommit. The motion was lost by a vote of 38 to 10.

A motion to make the bill the special order for to-morrow failed for want of a two-thirds vote.

The bill was then sent to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. PRINGLE reported favorably the bill to repeal the act to widen Main street, Brooklyn, when, on motion of Mr. DARYL, the bill was again recommended.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Congressional Apportionment bill was made the special order for this evening. The remainder of the afternoon session was consumed in the consideration of private claim bills.

EVENING SESSION.

The Assembly met at 7.

The special order, being the Congressional Apportionment bill, was postponed till to-morrow.

General orders being announced, several vain efforts were made to put forward the excise and other bills, when, after considerable filibustering, without doing any business, adjourned.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ALBANY, Thursday, April 17, 1862.

MILITARY AND PUBLIC DEFENSE.

The Senate has been giving much of its attention to the subject of public defense, and to the consideration of two bills connected with that question. The bill providing for the enrollment of militia, and the organization of the National Guard, on motion of Senator Ramsey, was sent to a committee, to be reported to-morrow. The main objection to it now, and which may prevent it from receiving a vote, is that feature which gives the Governor the power of appointing the first officers of all companies and regiments, and of ordering them to the front.

The other matter connected with this subject is the bill proposing to confer with the General Government, at the expense of the latter, in opening by enlarged locks and canals, a passage for gunboats from tide-water to the lakes. The proposition is to widen the Champlain Canal, and one of the locks on the Erie and Oswego Canals to a width that will pass gunboats into Lake Erie, and thence to Champlain, and by treaty with Great Britain we are prohibited from building them on the Lake.

Senator Folger moved an amendment, giving the General Government the choice of constructing a new canal from Lyons to Sodus Bay, or enlarging the locks on the Oswego Canal. This Senator Sanford conceived to be an attempt to crush Oswego. On a vote last night the amendment was lost. To-day the bill came up to be reported, and the bill was carried, and the bill is so amended. Now Senator Sanford threatens to defeat the bill, unless Oswego can be secured in the enjoyment of the commercial advantages that may grow out of this measure.

THE HEALTH BILL.

Mr. Abbott announced a report from a majority of the Committee on the Health bill. The Senate and Assembly have been immediately on the quiver to receive that report. Immediately on its receipt the bill was received by the Clerk, Senator Montgomery announced a minority report, being the Assembly bill without amendments. This settled the question. Senator Monroe moved to make the bill or bills a special order for this evening, but was shrewd enough to accept an amendment, staged by Senator Cornell, to fix it for Friday morning, which by a majority vote was ordered to be printed.

The leading amendments are the substitution of the Mayors for the Police Commissioners, the addition of the Chairman of the Richmond Board of Supervisors, the nomination from the bill of those matters conflicting with the duties of the Health Officer at Quarantine, and leaving to the Board of Health the sole appellate jurisdiction of the clearing of the streets.

THE SPECIAL CIRCULAR.

The Commissioners of the Canal Fund have presented a reply to the resolutions of inquiry promulgated by Senator Cook for the country boats. The document is voluminous, and is an admirable defense of the action of the Commissioners, as uniform with all past action, and necessary to maintain

the faith and honor of the State. The precedent of the action of the Commission is during the universal suspension of 1837 is cited, when a high premium was paid by the State for specie to meet its liabilities.

HARBOR-MASTERS' BILL.

The bill relative to the Captain of the Port and Harbor-Masters of the Port of New-York, after being amended so as to remove all limits as to qualifications of the Harbor-Masters in reference to residence or occupation, was to-day ordered to a third reading in the Assembly. Certain slips and pieces are set apart for the use of canal boats; but at the same time the bill provides for the use of the canal boats, the Captain of the Port may grant written permission to vessels to occupy the same.

EMANCIPATION IN THE DISTRICT.

AN ACT for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor; and from and after the passage of this act neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall hereafter exist in said District.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all persons held to the United States, holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act, may, within ninety days from the passage thereof, but not thereafter, present to the Commissioners hereinafter mentioned their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages, and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said claims were acquired, and any facts touching the value thereof, and declaring his allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that he has not borne arms against the United States during the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid or comfort thereto: Provided, That the oath of the party to the petition shall not be evidence of the facts therein stated.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three Commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims therein presented, as aforesaid, and appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid: Provided, however, That the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to three hundred dollars for each person shown to have been held by lawful claim: And provided, further, That no claim shall be allowed for any slave or slaves brought into said District after the passage of this act, nor for any slave claimed by any person who has borne arms against the United States, or who has given aid or comfort to the Rebellion, or who has been in the present Rebellion, or in any way given aid or comfort thereto, or who originates in or by virtue of any transfer heretofore made, or which shall hereafter be made by any person who has in any manner aided or sustained the Rebellion against the Government of the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That said Commissioners shall, within ninety days from the passage of this act, make and submit a report of the results of their proceedings, findings and appraisement, and shall deliver the same to the Secretary of the Treasury, which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects, except as hereinafter provided; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with like exception, cause the amounts so apportioned to said claims to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be entitled to said amounts, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation: Provided, That in cases where petitions may be filed presenting conflicting claims or setting up liens, said Commissioners shall so specify in said report, and payment shall not be made according to the award of said Commissioners until a period of sixty days shall have elapsed, during which time any person claiming to be entitled to the amount may file a bill in equity in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, making all other claimants defendants thereto, setting forth the proceedings in such case before said Commissioners, and their action thereon, and praying that the party to whom payment has been awarded may be enjoined from receiving the same; and if said bill shall grant such provisional order, a copy thereof may, on motion of said complainant, be served upon the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall thereupon cause the said amount of money to be paid into said court, subject to its order and final decree, which payment shall be in full and complete compensation, as in other cases.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That said Commissioners shall hold their sessions in the City of Washington, at such place and times as the President of the United States may direct, of which they shall give due and public notice. They shall have power to subpoena and take the testimony and evidence of witnesses, and to receive and retain the same for production, as in civil cases before courts of justice, without the exclusion of any witnesses on account of color; and they may summon before them the persons making claim to service or labor, and examine them under oath; and they may also, for purposes of identification and appraisement, call before them the persons so claimed.